Addendum to the Final Supplemental EIR
for the Santa Margarita Drought Reliability Project
County of San Luis Obispo
Santa Margarita Emergency Intertie Project
ED 90-649 (201R020123)

Summary

The County of San Luis Obispo has applied for Proposition 50 grant funding for the Santa Margarita Emergency Intertie Project (Project). The Project location, project description and environmental impacts are discussed in this and one other EIR Addendum. This EIR Addendum specifically addresses a connection between the State Water Project pipeline and the community of Santa Margarita.

Project Location

San Luis Obispo County Service Area No. 23 (CSA 23), formerly known as San Luis Obispo County Water Works District No. 6, is the water purveyor for the community of Santa Margarita in the County of San Luis Obispo. The CSA 23 water distribution system generally consists of two active groundwater wells and pumps, two inactive wells, two storage tanks and 6.5 miles of 6-inch and 8-inch pipeline. Santa Margarita is located near the intersection of Highway 58 and Highway 101, roughly 10 miles north of the City of San Luis Obispo and 20 miles south of the City of Paso Robles.

The Project consists of emergency water system connections from CSA 23 to the State Water Project (SWP), from CSA 23 to Garden Farms Community Water District and from CSA 23 to Atascadero Mutual Water Company (Attachment 1). The CSA 23 connection to the State Water Project will be located at 9825 Estrada Avenue in Santa Margarita and is within the Public Facilities land use category (Attachments 2 and 3). The connection to Atascadero Mutual Water Company will be located at the intersection of Santa Margarita Road and El Camino Real in Atascadero, within County road right-of-way. The connection to Garden Farms Community Water District will be located at the intersection of Linden Avenue and El Camino Real in Atascadero, within County road right-of-way.

Purpose and Need

The community of Santa Margarita depends on groundwater as their only source of drinking water. The groundwater supply is sufficient to provide for the existing water needs of the CSA 23 service area, but has been historically affected by drought and is vulnerable in many ways. Without the addition of an alternate, backup water supply, CSA 23's ability to safely and reliably provide and deliver drinking water in the event of emergencies is at risk. Specifically, CSA 23's groundwater supply, when used as a sole water source, is considered potentially unreliable for the following reasons:

1. Lack of Supply Redundancy. CSA 23 completely relies on their two operational groundwater wells, Well #3 and Well #4, to supply drinking water to the community of Santa Margarita. Well #3 is a deep well (780 ft) located in the low yield Santa Margarita formation near the east end of town and is capable of providing 90 acre-feet per year (AFY) at a pumping rate of 144,000 gallons per day (gpd). Well #4 is a shallow well (50 ft) located in the high yield alluvium of Santa Margarita Creek near the west end of town and is capable

of providing 120 AFY at a pumping rate of 520,000 gpd. With only these two wells in service, CSA 23 has little to no operational or emergency flexibility and must:

- Keep both wells in service throughout most of the year in order to supply the community's average water consumption of 175 AFY.
- Keep Well #4 in service during all seasons since it is the only well capable of producing CSA 23's historical maximum day demand (330,000 gpd) on its own. This lack of redundancy puts CSA 23 in violation of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 64554, which requires community water systems to be capable of meeting the maximum day demand with the highest capacity source off line.

2. Vulnerability to Intentional and Unintentional Well Damage. Like all public facilities, CSA 23's two wells are vulnerable to intentional damage or shutdown caused by vandalism or terrorist act. The wells are also inherently vulnerable to unanticipated, unintentional damage causing well shutdowns, including pump or motor failure, well casing collapse and extended loss of power. In the event that such intentional or unintentional damage causes one or both of the wells to shut down for an extended period of time, CSA 23 would likely not be able to provide an adequate drinking water supply to its customers. This is especially true of damages to Well #4, the highest producing of the two wells.

3. Vulnerability to Intentional and Unintentional Contamination. Although the Well #3 and Well #4 are located within secured facilities, they are vulnerable to intentional contamination by terrorist act and unintentional contamination by other sources. The CSA 23 Watershed Sanitary Survey Report (2010) identifies the following significant potential sources of contamination within the watershed which could cause a water supply emergency:
    - The entire Santa Margarita community captures its wastewater with septic tank/leach field systems, which are potential sources for viral, microbial and nitrate contamination of groundwater.
    - Trains transporting large volumes of contaminants routinely run through town within 100 yards of Well #4, CSA 23's highest producing and shallowest well (50 feet). A train wreck or spill would undoubtedly impact the shallow groundwater accessed by Well #4.
    - The watershed that replenishes the groundwater for both CSA 23 wells is in a very high fire hazard area. After large fires occur, storm water flows transport large loads of suspended solids and organic materials into surface waters, which may lead to contamination of the groundwater.

If either of CSA 23's wells becomes contaminated, intentionally or unintentionally, CSA 23 would not be able to provide adequate drinking water supply to its customers.

4. Vulnerability to Drought Conditions. CSA 23's groundwater is highly impacted by drought and seasonal fluctuations. Well #4, the highest producing well, is especially impacted since it is only 50 feet deep and highly influenced by surface water in Santa Margarita Creek. During a drought extending from 1987-1992, water levels in CSA 23's wells fell so low that a water emergency was declared and a water conservation ordinance adopted that prohibited all outdoor water usage. At that time, the system relied solely on two wells that were located in the high yield alluvium of Santa Margarita Creek where Well #4 is now located. Like Well #4, these wells were high producing, but only in non-drought conditions. As a result of this emergency, Well #3 was drilled to provide a deeper groundwater source

in a different formation. It was hoped that Well #3 would not be as influenced by drought conditions, but use of the well has shown that it has a much lower production.

Since CSA 23's well production has historically decreased during droughts and other seasonal fluctuations, the system may not always be able to provide its customers with an adequate, dependable water supply. This makes the system more vulnerable to the impacts of intentional and unintentional contamination and damage occurring in times of drought.

Project Description

The Project generally consists of constructing water system improvements that will provide direct and indirect interconnection of CSA 23's water system with the following water systems:

- State Water Project (SWP)
- Atascadero Mutual Water Company (Atascadero MWC)
- Garden Farms Community Water District (Garden Farms CWD)

The water system intertie connections provided by the proposed Project will give CSA 23 physical access to multiple water supply sources that can be used to supplement or supply drinking water to the Santa Margarita community in the event of an emergency. Access to these water sources would provide system redundancy, satisfy Title 22 regulations and would enable CSA 23 to provide a safe and reliable water supply during water emergencies.

The proposed emergency interties may require water use agreements, water exchanges and/or acquisition of temporary water rights in order to provide water to CSA 23 through the interties during an emergency. Details relating to the quantity of water and agreements with the water providers are not discussed or included in the proposed Project. The Project to be funded by the grant is for the physical connections only. Details related to obtaining the water would be developed concurrently should funding be granted.

State Water Project Emergency Intertie

The Phase II Coastal Branch Pipeline (Coastal Pipeline) of the SWP runs along the south side of Santa Margarita within 50 feet of the southern boundary of CSA 23's service area and Well #3. The project will connect CSA 23's existing 6-inch steel waterline to the 51-inch steel Coastal Pipeline via a hard connection to the Coastal Pipeline's 6-inch steel piping in a blow-off vault located adjacent to the Well #3 site. In accordance with California Department of Water Resources (DWR) requirements, the connection will be made through a new turnout facility to provide for control and measurement of flows from the Coastal Pipeline to the CSA 23 system. Attachment 2 illustrates the details of the State Water Project Intertie, including connection to both pipelines and turnout facility equipment.

Construction of the State Water Project Intertie will generally consist of the following:

- Connection of new 6-inch steel piping to the Coastal Pipeline's existing 6-inch steel blow-off valve piping.
- Construction of an approximate 15'x24' underground concrete vault to house the turnout equipment

- Installation of turnout equipment, whose main components include 4-inch and 6-inch steel piping, a 4-inch actuated flow control and pressure reducing valve, a 4-inch venturi flow meter, four isolation valves, and two air/vacuum release valves.
- Installation and programming of a programmable logic controller (PLC) and other monitoring and control equipment for incorporation into the existing SWP Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system and existing SWP fiber optic communications line that runs parallel to the Coastal Pipeline.
- Installation of electrical equipment, including connection to existing power and backup power supply equipment.
- Connection of new 6-inch steel piping to the existing CSA 23 6-inch steel piping at the Well #3 site.

Construction of the State Water Project Emergency Intertie will provide CSA 23 access to treated SWP water in the event of a CSA 23 water supply emergency. This will improve CSA 23's ability to reliably deliver water to its customers, provide increased water system security and protect the safety of the Santa Margarita community.

Atascadero MWC & Garden Farms CWD Emergency Intertie (*addressed in a separate Addendum*)

Atascadero MWC is composed of a widespread water system that delivers water to approximately 8,700 service connections in the Atascadero area. Its water supply sources include Salinas River underflow, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and Nacimiento Water Project water. The southern extents of Atascadero MWC's service area are located approximately 2.5 miles north of Santa Margarita and the CSA 23 service area.

Garden Farms CWD is a small water company that supplies drinking water to the small community of Garden Farms. The Garden Farms CWD service area is located approximately 2 miles north of Santa Margarita. Its water supply is composed of groundwater from the shallow, high yield alluvium near Santa Margarita Creek and the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

Construction of the Atascadero MWC and Garden Farms Emergency Intertie will provide CSA 23 access to treated water from Atascadero MWC and Garden Farms CWD in the event of a CSA 23 water supply emergency. Atascadero MWC has access to reliable water supply sources that CSA 23 cannot currently access, including Salinas River underflow, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and Nacimiento Water Project. Garden Farms CWD also has access to the southern tip of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, which is not as impacted by drought as CSA 23's groundwater source. Connections to the Atascadero MWC and Garden Farms CWD systems, in addition to the State Water Project Emergency Intertie, will ensure CSA 23's ability to reliably deliver water to its customers, provide increased water system security and protect the safety of the Santa Margarita community.

Both Atascadero MWC and Garden Farms CWD have expressed their written support of an emergency water system connection to CSA 23 (see Attachment 7).

Environmental Review
This Addendum addresses the change from a permanent connection between CSA 23 and the State Water Project (addressed in the Santa Margarita Drought Reliability SEIR) to an emergency connection between CSA 23 and the State Water Project.

CSA 23's connection to the State Water Project was evaluated in the September 2011 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Margarita Drought Reliability Project (Santa Margarita Drought Reliability SEIR), which supplemented the March 1992 State Water Project Coastal Branch Phase II Local Lines and Facilities Final Environmental Impact Report (State Water EIR).

The Santa Margarita Drought Reliability SEIR identified significant impacts, all of which could be mitigated to a level considered less than significant (Class II). No unavoidable significant (Class I) impacts were identified for the project. The Class II impacts identified in the Santa Margarita Drought Reliability SEIR related to:

- Geology, seismicity and soils, which could be mitigated with site specific geotechnical investigations coupled with appropriate engineering design for the associated water infrastructure.
- Drainage, erosion and sedimentation, mitigated by application of standard construction period erosion control measures, followed by the development of emergency response and repair procedures for an accidental rupture, a regular inspection and maintenance program to detect possible problems with pipeline integrity.
- Air quality, mitigated by the application of standard construction period air quality protection measures.
- Noise, also mitigated by construction period noise mitigation measures.
- Biological resources, mitigated by minimizing the area of disturbance by clearly delineating the construction area on plans and in the field.
- Cultural resources, mitigated by observing standard measures to ensure that any unanticipated archaeological discoveries are treated and assessed as required by State and Federal law.

The changes to the project since the 2011 SEIR was approved constitute a minor modification of the project description. This Addendum addresses whether or not the Project, as modified, has the potential to result in a previously undisclosed significant effect on the environment.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) defines a "significant effect on the environment" as a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment." The Project, as proposed, would not result in any impacts to previously undisclosed resources. The proposed Project will require the same area of disturbance within the area originally considered for the 2011 proposal.

Effects of the Change in the Project Description
The modification to the project does not add acreage to the original project. The project location will avoid new adverse effects on sensitive species by working entirely within the existing right of way in a road shoulder area.

Conclusion
The Project, as modified, would not result in any significant impacts on the environment. Further, the approved FEIR originally issued in 2011 is still adequate because the changes to the Project are minor and would not result in any new significant impacts.

Prepared by:

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Environmental Programs Manager, Department of Public Works

Approved by:

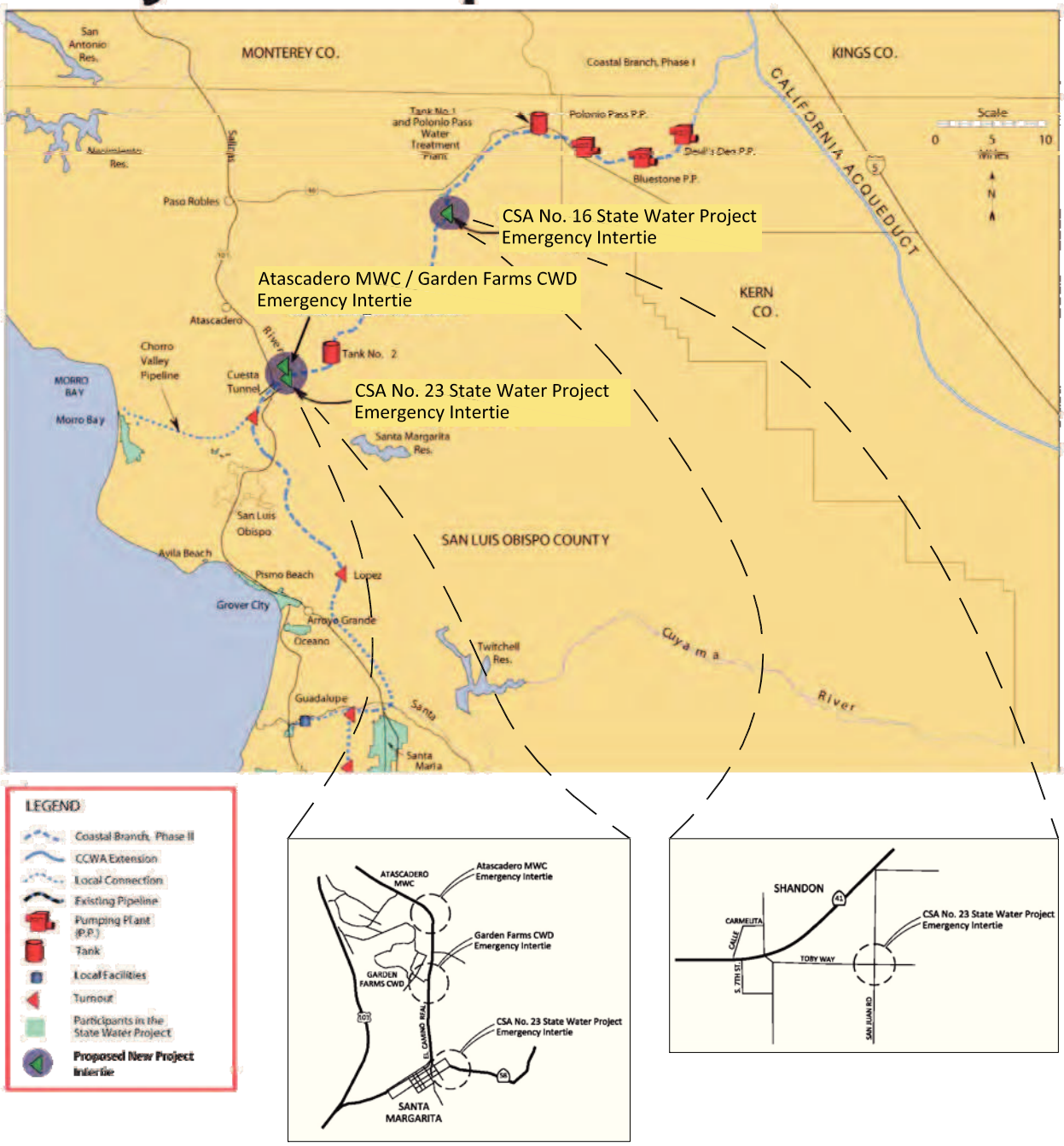
Ellen Carroll — 11.7.2012 Date
Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator

ATTACHMENT 1

Santa Margarita Emergency Intertie
Project Map

Santa Margarita Emergency Intertie Project

Project Map



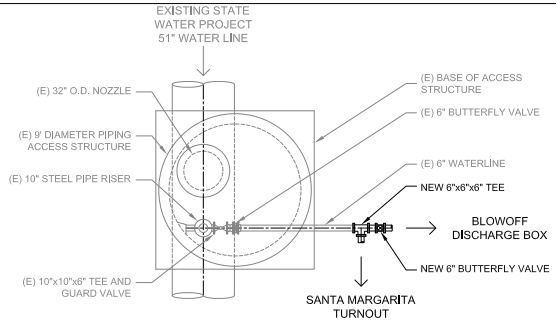
ATTACHMENT 2

Aerial Photograph


I St
#3206
Pinal Ave
#3108
3106 BR1
J St
#3106
J St
#3106
J ST
PINAL AVE
K ST
Encina Ave
#3109
58
Site

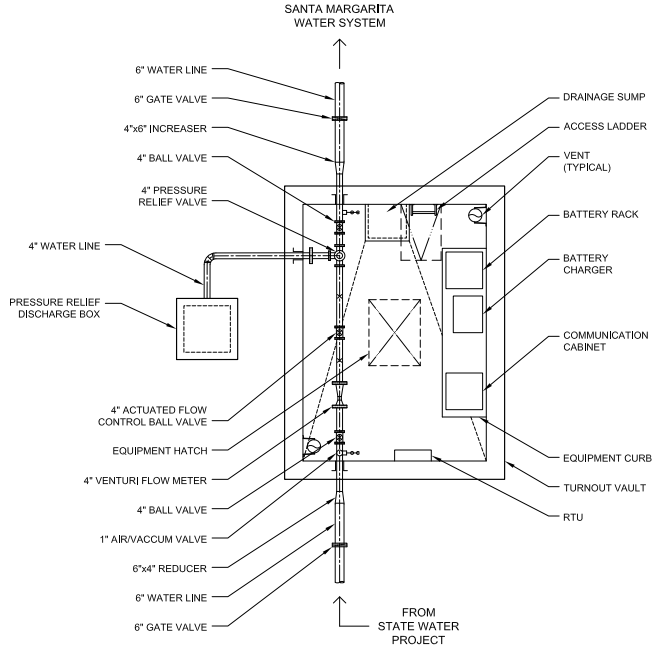
ATTACHMENT 3

State Water Project Intertie Layout



3 EXISTING STATE WATER PROJECT BLOWOFF VAULT DETAIL

N.T.S.



2 TURNOUT DETAIL

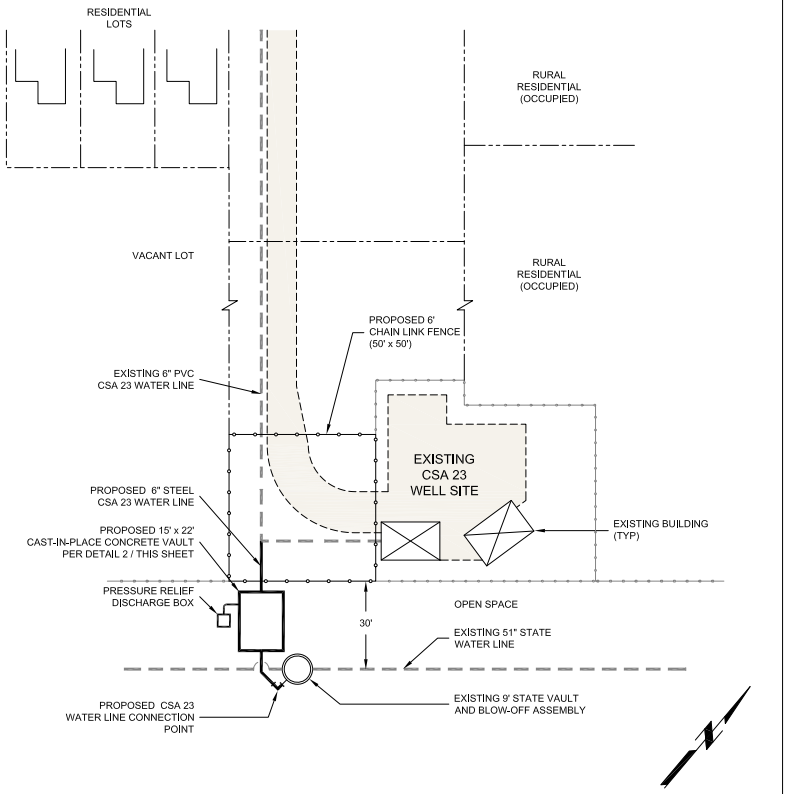
N.T.S.

LEGEND

- EXISTING BUILDING
- EXISTING CHAINLINK FENCE
- PROPOSED CHAINLINK FENCE
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- PROPOSED WATERLINE
- PROPERTY LINE

ROAD NO.	JOB NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
2039	552R235642		

VICINITY MAP



1 SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1"=20'

PRELIMINARY

CSA 23 STATE WATER TURNOUT PROJECT					
SANTA MARGARITA, CA					
INTERTIE - SITE PLAN & DETAIL					
Designer	Date	Drawn By	Date	Design Engineer	Date
			AUG. 2012		

0 1 2 3 ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES FOR REDUCED PLANS